

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 227760

FOLLOWING REPEAT JAKARTA 12092 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 07 SEP
78

QUOTE UNCLAS JAKARTA 12092

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, ID

SUBJ: EAST TIMOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEWS

1. THE INDONESIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO A VISIT BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE JUSUF TO EAST TIMOR DURING THE LEBARAN HOLIDAYS. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, IN ADDITION TO INSPECTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROVINCE, WAS TO CELEBRATE IDUL FITRI AMONG THE SOLDIERS WHO COULD NOT BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES. JUSUF COMMENTED THAT HE SAW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED OUT IN EAST TIMOR DURING THE PERIOD SINCE HIS LAST VISIT THERE ONE MONTH AGO. IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THIS MOMENTUM, HE SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE AGRICULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE PROVINCE.

2. A REPORTER FROM THE RESPECTED JAKARTA DAILY KOMPAS WHO ACCOMPANIED JUSUF TO TIMOR REPORTED THE SURRENDER OF
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ARSENIO RAMOS HORTA, THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE SELF-APPOINTED FRETELIN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMOS HORTA, TO GOVERNMENT FORCES. HORTA SAID THAT HE SURRENDERED BECAUSE HE WAS DISILLUSIONED WITH FRETELIN. AFTER 2-1/2 YEARS WITH FRETELIN FORCES HE REALIZED THAT THEY WERE SIMPLY ADVENTURES AND THAT THEIR RESISTANCE EFFORT WAS JUST A DREAM WITHOUT A FUTURE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE

DIFFICULTIES WHICH FRETILIN ENCOUNTERED IN SECURING FOOD
AND NOTED THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE WEIGHING HEAVILY ON THE
MINDS OF OTHER FRETILIN INSURGENTS.

3. THE PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN FIRST PAGE COVERAGE TO
FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA'S THREE DAY VISIT
TO TIMOR. HE LEFT JAKARTA ON SEPTEMBER 6 ACCOMPANIED BY
A NUMBER OF FOREIGN AMBASSADORS. IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR
MASTERS, THOSE MAKING THE TRIP, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ARE THE
AMBASSADORS OF CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, EGYPT, JAPAN,
SOUTH KOREA, SYRIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND BANGLADESH.
WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE SYRIAN DID NOT GO AS
SCHEDULED.
MASTERS

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